



THE
LUTHERAN CHURCH
Missouri Synod

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September
2026

News from Rev. Dr. Arthur, Deaconess Eva, and the Rickman Family serving in Latin America

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Letters from Latin America

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

***"For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid,
which is Jesus Christ." 1 Corinthians 3:11 (ESV)***

The Church's foundation is not a particular missionary, pastor, congregation, program, or organization. Our foundation is Christ Himself. He continues to build His Church through His Word and Sacraments here in Panama and throughout the world.

We are thankful for the blessing of our recent missionary conference. These gatherings are always a special encouragement. Missionaries can sometimes feel isolated, so it is a wonderful gift to step away from our regular responsibilities, reconnect with other missionary families, pray together, worship together, and encourage one another in the work Christ has given us.

During the conference, we had the opportunity to learn more about the history of the Reformation and the life and ministry of Martin Luther. It was a wonderful reminder that we are part of a much larger story. The Gospel we proclaim today is the same Gospel that has sustained God's people throughout the centuries with salvation by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone.

After returning from the conference, Eva quickly turned her attention toward the beginning of another academic year. She has been working hard preparing the deaconess courses and getting them published online through Canvas. This year marks the tenth academic year for the seminary, which is a wonderful milestone for which we give thanks to God. We consider it a privilege to have even a small part in the pastoral and diaconal formation of future church workers in our region. Please pray for the students as they begin this new academic year. Pray that the Lord would give them wisdom, perseverance, and a growing love for His Word and His people.

Following the missionary conference, Arthur traveled to Australia to serve as the keynote speaker for the Lutheran Mission Australia (LMA) Pastor's Conference where he had the opportunity to connect with both new and old friends. They had requested a speaker from Latin America to share about church planting. While the cultures and circumstances may be different, many of the challenges are remarkably similar. Wherever we serve, we are called to faithfully proclaim Christ, care for His people, and trust the Lord to give the growth. Arthur also had privilege of attending the inaugural synodical convention of the LMA where the members voted to establish altar and pulpit fellowship with the LCMS. It was a significant moment and a joyful reminder of the unity we share with fellow confessional Lutherans around the world.



Panama



Colombia



Mexico

...and other areas in
Latin America and the
Caribbean.

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Requests, Praises, and Thanks

- ...for members and visitors of the congregation we serve in Panama.
- ...for health and safety for our family and all who serve in Latin America.
- ...for our confirmands as they study the Lutheran faith.
- ...for pastoral and deaconess students starting a new year.
- ...for safe travels for the group of Parish Nurses and FORO partners who will be visiting Panama in the coming weeks.
- ...thanks for the grace and eternal promises from the one who gives us all good things.
- ...thanks for the opportunities to serve His people in Latin America.
- ...thanks for all who make it possible for us to serve.

There are many opportunities to serve. Check out the current list and download an application at www.lcms.org/service. Click on "Service Opportunities."

***CAUTION: Please DO NOT FORWARD without permission or POST anywhere on the internet. Thank you!**

Rickman Family Update

At the missionary conference, Bethany and Zoe were able to put together a small art exhibit featuring some of their work. Bethany shared some of her paintings, while Zoe displayed some of her photography. It was a special opportunity for them to share the gifts God has given them.



Following the conference, we were also able to visit several deaconess sites that helped lay the foundation for LCMS deaconesses. It was particularly significant for us as we continue working with deaconess formation throughout Latin America. Their example also reminds us that the work we do today is part of something much larger than ourselves. We pray that the Lord will use the deaconesses in LAC to bless His Church for generations to come.

***Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!
2 Corinthians 9:15***

We thank all of you for partnering with us and making it possible for us to share the most important message with those in Latin America! Please prayerfully consider supporting the ongoing work here with a monthly pledge or one-time gift. We are thankful for each of you walking alongside us!

In Christ <+>< ,

Arthur and Eva,

Bethany, Zoe, Noah, Nathaniel, Mary Anna, Addy and Hannah



To support the work of the Rickman Family, you may send a tax-deductible gift to:

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
P.O. Box 66861
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861.

ALSO, you can send your gift to:

Mission Central at 40718 Highway E-16, Mapleton, Iowa 51034

Make checks payable to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Mark checks **"Support of the Rickman Family."** Gifts can also be given securely online through the LCMS website, on my online giving page at www.lcms.org/rickman.